

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of: **YAJIMA, Taro, et al.**

Group Art Unit: **1753**

Serial No.: **10/657,192**

Examiner: **Rodney G. McDonald**

Filed: **September 9, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **1622**

For: **VACUUM APPARATUS AND VACUUM PROCESSING METHOD (AS AMENDED)**

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116**  
**- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -**  
**GROUP ART UNIT 1753**

**MAILSTOP AF**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 28, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 28, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.